



## **National Commission on the Future of the Army**

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000  
Arlington, VA 22202

**SUBJECT:** National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) – 10 July 2015,  
Site Visits Group 1 Minutes

**Date:** 10 July 2015

**Time:** 0935 - 1300

**Location:** Austin TX, State Capitol and the Aviation Support Facility

**Format:** Commissioners engagement with Governor of Texas, The Adjutant General of Texas, and Commanding General, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

**Attendees:**

Commissioner Thomas Lamont  
Commissioner Katherine Hicks  
Commissioner Jack Stultz  
MG Raymond Carpenter – NCFA Staff  
COL Kristen Dixon – NCFA Staff  
LTC Timothy Palmer – NCFA Staff  
Mr. Donald Tison – Designated Federal Officer (DFO)  
Governor Greg Abbott  
Maj. Gen. John Nichols, The Adjutant General (TAG) of TX  
MG Robbie Asher, The Adjutant General (TAG) of OK  
MG Lester Simpson, Commander, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
COL Greg Barrow, TX National Guard G3  
LTC Max Krupp, Commander, 1-143 IN Bn (ABN)

**Documents Submitted to Commission:**

- (1) Governor Greg Abbott statement
- (2) 1-143<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Brief
- (3) Texas Army National Guard Introductory brief
- (4) 36th ID Brief

At 0935, the Commissioners met with Governor Abbott at the State Capitol in Austin. The DFO and Commissioner Lamont provided opening remarks and introductions. The DFO discussed the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the discussions for the day.

**Governor's Opening Remarks:**

- 1) The National Guard (NG) of Texas provides a family connection to the military.
- 2) Texas NG stands prepared to take on any mission.
- 3) Texas NG is a cost effective approach; offers more bang for the buck.

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- 4) Texas NG is ready to deploy quickly: currently have 1,500 personnel deployed/deploying (1,000 for Title 10 missions, and 200 on the border).
- 5) Texas is a large state with a lot of natural disasters. Some AC Soldiers don't know how to respond to natural disasters; are less cost effective to use for state missions.

Governor Abbott then provided a written statement to the Commissioners the addressed the following: TXARNG has a proven track record of providing cost-effective, highly capable combat reserve forces whenever called upon for the national security of America. Texas has invested nearly \$2 billion since 2005 in roads and infrastructure to aid in the deployment of soldiers and supplies and improve access to our installations. The Governor's Texas Military Preparedness Commission has awarded over \$32 million in grants directly to military communities for infrastructure projects, and the state legislature recently allocated \$30 million more for these grants over the next two years. The community support for troops stationed in Texas is unrivaled by any other state. Low costs of living, affordable off-base housing, and state-funded support to military families and retirees make Texas the gold standard in supporting our Nation's warfighters; active, guard and reserve.

At 1130, the Commissioners and staff travelled to the Army Aviation Support Facility at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to visit with Texas Army National Guard elements. The Commissioners had lunch with TXNG Soldiers and then met with the Adjutants General from Texas and Oklahoma, and the Commander of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, TXARNG. That meeting was followed by briefings from the G3 of the TXARNG, the Battalion Commander for the 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 143<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, TXARNG, and Commanding General, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, TXARNG.

**MG Nichols TAG of Texas key points:**

- 1) We depend on the active duty.
- 2) We are not ready to go tonight, but we are ready to go when needed.
- 3) AC is not at full readiness currently.
- 4) Texas has 254 counties; Texas Guard covers a large area.
- 5) National Guard Soldiers/units have a lot of connections to the populace and local governments.
- 6) TXARNG Soldiers want to go on missions; they need to go. These Soldiers are frustrated at not being used for federal missions.
- 7) Question often raised, why do you have F-16/Apaches in ARNG? Question should be, "Why don't we have more?" We need to capture AC expertise as those Soldiers leave active duty and keep expertise for longer with service in ARNG or USAR.
- 8) National Guard needed to support the country. Guardsmen/women have benefit of additional civilian skills; never know when these skills will be needed.
- 9) 36<sup>th</sup> Division is ready, received high praise for abilities during Warfighter exercise.
  - a) Use this Division if needed.

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- b) 34<sup>th</sup> ID was not deployed, but 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from Regular Army was made operational and deployed instead.

10) Need to capitalize on the combat capabilities and experience in the Guard.

Following MG Nichols remarks, the discussion continued.

[TX TAG] On ARI: As a U.S. Citizen, losing the ability to have a bench is bad! Would not want to fight a war without a bench!

[HON Dr. Hicks] What is the key pushback? Answer: time and money; can't replicate AC.

[HON Dr. Hicks] What missions should be given to the Guard? Answers: (1) The tyranny of time is also the benefit of time and thus allows the Nation time to mobilize and train Guard forces.

[TX TAG] The "50% rule" where no more than 50% of NG Soldiers for a given state can deploy at one time is not valid. Texas is a large state; can mobilize more than 50% and be OK.

[TX TAG] Texas has put a significant amount of money into military support and infrastructure. Looking to appropriate more state funding for defense support.

[HON Lamont] What are some recommendations to better AC/RC integration? [TX TAG] Air Force does it much better. The main thing is to train together.

[TX TAG] Don't know all AC and USAR units in the state. First step is to understand who is in the state. Alignments with units works well to foster relationships.

[LTG (R) Stultz] What about using round up/out units<sup>1</sup>?

- a) Difficult but possible.
- b) Must figure out what we want to do and how what the differences are.
- c) Test the concept with open ears and eyes to learn.

[TX TAG] Have to bridge the gap between components for the Army to be successful. Brooks Army Medical Center (BAMC) is an example of successful multi-compo integration.

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<sup>1</sup> From 1973 to 1996, the US Army employed various forms of "round out" and "round up" units to use separate Reserve Component brigades to round out Regular Army Divisions manned at two thirds strength.

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**Lunch with Soldiers from the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (ARNG). Topics highlighted by Soldiers:**

- 1) “We want to continue to deploy or we will get bored”
- 2) “Money for schools dry up, we get bored”
- 3) Enjoy serving in the National Guard for the balance it provides in life (i.e. change of pace)
- 4) In a compressed amount of time we accomplish a lot – an example of full time commitment with part time training.
- 5) Paid for my college education and sent me to airborne school; made friends and established camaraderie.
- 6) What we need:
  - a) Resources for Night Vision Goggles
  - b) Continue to maintain the pace of integrated training with our joint brethren (Air Force Reserve) for powerful and realistic training
  - c) Our Apache. If you take away the Apaches you take away the combat capability, and would not stop there. Then X is taken away, then Y, then Z, and soon the National Guard becomes irrelevant.

**Discussion with TX and OK TAGs and Commander, 36 ID**

The DFO discussed the applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the discussions for the day. The group made the following points and answered Commissioners’ questions.

The Secretary of the Army / Chief of Staff of the Army letter provided to the Commission is not correct.

- a) Not just 39 days of training anymore.
- b) There is also no such thing as dwell in the National Guard.

[HON Dr. Hicks] Are there misconceptions about ARNG deployments and did the memo miss the principle point?

- a) ARNG never volunteered or turned down deployments. Did what was asked.
- b) [TAG OK] Oklahoma for example was the state with most deployed ARNG Soldiers.
  - i) FY17 will deploy 2 more battalions.
  - ii) Continues to deploy.
- c) Accessibility is not an issue.

[HON Dr. Hicks] Do the Governors want a minimum of NG to remain in the state?

- a) Oklahoma was over 50% deployed and still supported Texas when asked.
- b) Not a concern in Oklahoma.

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[HON Dr. Hicks] Has the advent of EMAC relationships shifted concern?

- a) EMAC sets response frameworks and puts the Governors more at ease.
- b) Now cracking code on how to pay and finding out where capabilities reside for all components of the Army.

[TX TAG] Force structure changes will cause 4,800 position changes requiring schooling. Yet, there are no schools dollars to fund training required for changes.

- a) Texas will lose SOUTHCOM RAF alignment.
- b) Houston area DSCA alignment goes away.

[TX TAG] Texas has been asked historically to recruit 1,000 personnel over end strength to cover other states.

[TX TAG] Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) to fund Full Time Support (FTS) is a bad idea.

- a) ADOS is short term and doesn't provide stability.
- b) Equates to unready units.

[36 ID CG] Established "Cup of Joe" coordination meetings for Troop Program Unit (TPU) leaders.

- a) Unpaid status but provided huge dividends for synchronizing efforts.
- b) Version control for electronic systems is a big hurdle for AC/RC interoperability.

[HON Dr. Hicks] Is there data on unpaid status?

- a) No data currently.
- b) [36ID CG] Extra work without pay is expected in NG.
- c) 36ID built website to facilitate Cup of Joe discussions and coordination.

[HON Lamont] How many Soldiers denied schools due to lack of funding?

- a) Quit scheduling FY15 schools in October 2014.
- b) Could afford to send only 7 lieutenants to OBC and Airborne slots, nothing else.

[TX and OK TAG] Medical readiness is the highest it has been, but will likely begin to degrade.

[TX and OK TAG] Soldiers today are joining NG to go somewhere on a deployment.

[TX TAG] Texas National Guard is an A Team paid like a B Team. Don't need to be at "full readiness" to be ready to go to war when the Nation needs us. Fear loss of Apaches will mean loss of combat capability and inability to conduct missions overseas.

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[36<sup>th</sup> ID CG] 36<sup>th</sup> ID completed a recent Warfighter with 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. 36<sup>th</sup> ID garnered greater accolades from the evaluators than 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division did.

[TX TAG] The National Guard offers a strong second line of defense, geographically. Texas has placed a lot of funds into military infrastructure (e.g. transportation in and out of posts/bases).

Three briefings were then presented by TXNG elements and all briefing slides and associated briefing scripts were provided to the Commission staff on a CD:

- 1) Texas Army National Guard Introductory brief given by COL Greg Barrow, TX National Guard G3.
- 2) 1-143<sup>rd</sup> IN BN (ABN) Brief by LTC Max Krupp
- 3) 36<sup>th</sup> ID Brief by MG Lester Simpson

The meeting concluded at 1300 hrs with the Commissioners thanking everyone for offering their opinions and personal experiences. Commissioner Lamont offered that more information about the Commission's activities, along with the ability to provide input, could be found at [www.ncfa.ncr.gov](http://www.ncfa.ncr.gov).